

**Security Council**

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**Identical letters dated 19 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform Security Council members of the following:

The United States of America and its illegitimate coalition revealed their true nature and the despicable goal that they are striving to achieve in Syria when, on 18 June 2017, they committed yet another crime by deliberately shooting down a Syrian aircraft that was carrying out its mission of combating the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) organization in Syrian territory.

It is shameful for the United States to justify its heinous action by disseminating barefaced lies in official statements that are as far removed from the truth as can be. Contrary to what the Americans have claimed, the Syrian warplane crashed in an area near Rusafah, which is controlled by ISIL, and the Syrian pilot was seen parachuting to the ground in territory controlled by ISIL.

This disgraceful American military aggression confirms beyond any doubt the true position of the United States, which is to support terrorism and impact on the capacity of the Syrian army, which, along with its allies, is the only effective force that is exercising its legitimate right to combat terrorism throughout the country. This aggression cannot be viewed in isolation from the crimes that the United States and its coalition have committed against the Syrian Arab Army and its allies in the Tanf area, or the unjustified attacks the coalition has carried out against innocent civilians in northern Raqqah and other areas. Those attacks have killed hundreds of innocent civilians and displaced more than 120,000 of the inhabitants of Raqqah, who fled their homes because the American coalition has been indiscriminately bombarding innocent civilians in Raqqah and other Syrian cities.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the above-mentioned aggression comes at a time when the Syrian Arab Army and its allies are making clear progress in the war against ISIL, which is being routed along several fronts in the Syrian desert. The American aggression also exposes the political and military intentions of the United States and its illegitimate coalition, and the evil intentions of that coalition, which is directing and exploiting terrorism in order to achieve its goal of advancing the Western project in the region.

The Syrian Arab Republic warns of the repercussions of that criminal act for counter-terrorism efforts. Such aggressions will not deter Syria and, in particular, its brave army from continuing the war against ISIL and the Nusrah Front, and their



affiliated terrorist organizations, and from restoring the control of the Syrian State over its entire territory.

Syria condemns this aggression and calls on the Security Council to break its silence and also condemn such cowardly and reckless military actions, particularly as they are being carried out by an illegitimate coalition, some of the members of which are permanent and non-permanent Council members. The blatant American aggression must be considered a violation of Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, the sovereignty and independence of the Syrian Arab Republic, international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Restoring security and stability to Syria and the region, and countering terrorism requires a good-faith effort by the international community to put an end to the Syrian crisis and thwart any effort aimed at prolonging and exploiting the crisis.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Louay **Falouh**  
Minister Counsellor  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.